

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2500

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

June 7, 2012
PR 12-30

Bell Police, ABC and ICE Arrest 12 at Paul's Cocktails (El Oasis) in Bell
Community Complaints Prompt Crack Down on Illegal Activity

Bell – On Saturday, June 2, 2012, Bell Police Officers along with Agents of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and officers of the United States Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 12 persons for alcohol-related violations at a bar in Bell. The arrests were the result of an undercover investigation at Paul's Cocktails (El Oasis), also known as Paul's Bar located at 3613 Gage Avenue. Undercover police visited the location multiple times after receiving complaints about problems at the bar.

Bell Police and ABC Agents arrested eight women for their involvement in an illegal drink solicitation scheme. One of those arrested was a minor. The illegal drink solicitation scheme involved bar servers who placed a surcharge on alcoholic beverages in exchange for keeping male patrons company. The illegal activity is a violation of section 303a of the California Penal Code, soliciting a customer to purchase alcoholic beverages. Officers also cited four other minor females who were in the bar illegally. They were charged with a violation of section 25665 of the Business and Professions Code, being a minor in a public premises. All of the arrests were made in the early morning on Saturday, June 2 during the enforcement operation.

In addition to the criminal charges, ABC Agents also witnessed administrative violations of Rule 107 of the California Code of Regulations because there were no signs posted at the entrance or inside the bar stating "no one under 21 allowed". Additionally, officers found evidence that alcoholic beverages were purchased from someone other than a licensed wholesaler, a violation of section 23402 of the California Business and Professions Code.

ABC will pursue administrative disciplinary action against the location for violations of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control Act. Penalties range from a fine to a suspension and possibly the revocation of the alcoholic beverage license.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.